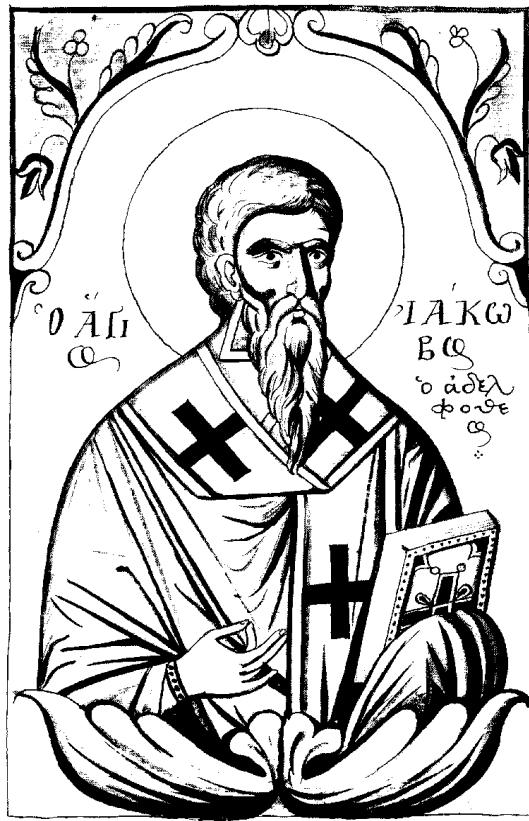


THE EPISTLE OF ST. JAMES



FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

SAN FRANCISCO

Prayer Before Study

O You who in all times and places are worshipped and glorified, both in heaven and on earth, Christ God, long-suffering, generous in mercy and rich in compassion, loving to the just and merciful to the sinner; O You who call all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come: vouchsafe, O Lord, at this very hour to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the way of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, danger and distress; surround us with your holy angels, so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may reach the oneness of the Faith and the knowledge of your unutterable glory, O You who are blessed forever and ever! Amen.

Prayer After Study

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to all. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory. Lord King, heavenly God, Father almighty, Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father who take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, You who take away the sins of the world. Receive our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy upon us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every evening we will bless you, and praise your name forever and to the ages of ages. Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy upon me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Lord, unto you have I fled; teach me to do your will, for You are my God. For You are the source of life and in Your light we shall see light. Extend Your mercy to those who know You. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed are you, Lord, God of our fathers. Your name is praised and glorified from ages to ages. Amen. Let your mercy, come upon us, O Lord, for we have put our trust in You. Blessed are You, Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, Master, make me understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, Holy One, enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, Lord, endures forever; do not despise the works of your hands. To You belongs praise, to You is due song, to you is due glory, Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Members of Our Group

Name

Email

Phone

Meeting One James 1:1-27

1. Consider vss. 2-4 and Romans 5:1-5. What progression should take place as a result of difficulties? How does your attitude in time of trial stand up to vs. 2?
2. Where does wisdom come from (see vs. 5, and Ps. 111:10)? What can hinder it? Can you give an example of God's wisdom being demonstrated in the life of a believer?
3. Note vss. 9-11. Does prosperity move our nation toward or away from God? How does it affect your personal spiritual growth?
4. List the progression of destructive steps named in vss. 13-15. Have you such signs in your life or the life of someone you know?
5. List the three commands in verse 19. Which is the hardest for you to control?
6. Compare the man in vss. 22-24 with the man in vs. 25. What does the second man gain? Why do so many choose to live like the first man?
7. Who do you know that most closely embodies the qualities and actions of vs. 27? Describe them.

Meeting Two James 2:1-2:13

1. What is James' command in vs. 1? How do James 1:1 and Galatians 1:19 illustrate that the apostle knows how to take his own advice?
2. See vs. 2-4. How do churches show favoritism today? How does one evaluate in a positive way, without being discriminatory? (See 1 Cor. 6:2; 1 John. 4:1)
3. Can you give an example of being discriminated against, or, if you feel brave, give an example of a time when you wrongly discriminated against others. What did you do to make it right?
4. What two gifts has God given to the poor (vss. 5-7)? What do we learn about God's view of the poor from Luke 4:18 and 6:20; Matt. 11:4,5; 1 Cor. 1:26?
5. In what ways do you relate to the very poor?
6. Read vs. 8-11. What are some common expressions of favoritism in our culture? In our churches?
7. Describe the relationship of mercy to judgment.

Meeting Three James 2:14-2:26

1. Can you give an example of what James is describing in vss. 14-16?
2. Read vss. 17-25. How do these verses relate to Romans 1:17, 3:28, and 4:13?
3. Read Genesis 22:1-19. What would you say to a person who says we are saved just by what we do?
4. Describe a major test of your faith.
5. What “works” give evidence of your faith? What are the limitations of such works?
6. What do we learn from James’ statement about demons (vs. 19)?
7. How were Abraham and Rahab (Joshua 2) different in their backgrounds? How were they alike in their heritage (Matthew 1)?

Meeting Four James 3

1. What is the main idea that you impresses you in vss. 1-2?
2. What three images does James use to portray the power of words in vss. 3-6? What do they have in common?
3. Note vss. 7,8. Tell of a time when the words of another have either been terribly hurtful or extremely encouraging to you.
4. Can you give examples, perhaps in your own life, of the behavior described in vss. 3:9,10? If verse 8 is true, what can we do to correct such "speech" problems?
5. Read Eph. 4:15. Which is harder for you: Speaking "the truth", or doing it "in love"?
6. What are some examples of false wisdom (vss. 13-16) that you see in our society (or churches) today?
7. Can you give an example of the wisdom described in vss. 17,18?

Meeting Five James 4

1. To whom is James writing (1:1)? What is the root cause of “fights and quarrels” among them (4:1-2a)?
2. What are two reasons these Christians do not receive answers to their prayers (2b-3)?
3. Note vs. 4 and 1 John 2:15-17. What is “friendship with the world”? What are its manifestations? What is the antidote to love of this world? (Vs. 6; Gal. 1:3,4)?
4. How does one “resist the devil” (vs. 7)? How does one “draw near to God” (vs. 8)?
5. Does vs. 9 describe the way Christians are supposed to look? (See Matt. 6:16-18).
6. How is one who “speaks evil of one another” really “judging the law (vss. 11,12)?
7. In the light of vss. 13-17, do we tend to plan too much or too little? What corrections do you think you need to make?

Meeting Six James 5

1. Read vss. 5:1-6 and Amos 4:1 and Micah 2:1,2. How do these verses relate to events in our world today?
2. Why do these early Christians need to be encouraged to be patient? (See Acts 8:1; 11:28-30; 12:1-3)? In what area do you need to learn patience?
3. Does vs. 12 relate to taking an oath in court, or swearing allegiance to a country?
4. Are vss. 13-15 talking of physical healing? If so, how does one account for those who are not healed?
5. Note vs. 16. To whom should one confess? What type of wrongs should be confessed? Should some sins be left unrevealed?
6. Why does James add the information in vss. 17,18? How does it relate to your life?
7. What is the correct way to correct one who “wanders from the truth”? (See Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:20) Have you ever seen this practiced correctly?